three years, year-wise; and

(e) the number of complaints pending as on date for disposal?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Payment of the agreed wages is the responsibility of the employers while refund of security deposited is the function of Protector of Emigrants. The recruiting agents, threfore, are not concerned with complaints in this regard.

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) No amount has been recovered by Government from the recruiting agents.

(d) During the year 1989, Bank Guarantees of three recruiting agents were forfeited. No Bank Guarantee of the recruiting agents was forfeited during the years 1987 and 1988.

(e) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

Late running of the Kerala Express

544. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) how many times Kerala Express reached at respective destinations late during the last three years; year-wise and destination-wise;

(b) whether, on 23rd June 1990 Delhi-bound Kerala Express reached late; if so, the details threof;

(e) when the New Delhi Station authorities had made the announcement regarding the late arrival of the said train;

(d) whether correct information regarding the late arrival was made available by enquiry office over telephone; if not the reasons therefore; and

(e) what steps are being taken to run this train in time which connects Kerala's capital with Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Kerala Express reached New Delhi late on **224, 224 and 267 days and at Trivandrum** on 189, 186 and 237 days in 1987-88, 1988-89 & 1989-90 respectively.

(b) Kerala Express reached New Delhi late by 2 hours 10 **minutes** on 23rd June, 1990 mainly on account of heavy detention to the train after passing Mathura on account of signalling equipment failure.

(c) Announcements at regular intervals 24 times in all, about late running of this train were made from 1330 hrs. onwards upto the arrival of the train.

(d) The train suffered detention between Mathura Junction and New Delhi at different points and the latest information about its late running was conveyed by the Enquiry office from time to time.

(e) Unavoidable causes like accidents, bad weather including natural calamities like cyclone, heavy rains, miscreant activities and certain equipment failures have been mainly responsible for late running of Kerala Express. Round the clock monitoring is, however, being done to improve its performance as far as possible.

Construction of railway line between Khurdha and Bolangir in Orissa

545. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have re-considered the earlier proposal and decided to take up the construction of a railway line between Khurdha and Bolangir via Phulbani in Orissa in order to develop that backward area;

(b) if so, by which year the construction would be taken up; and